

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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S E C R E T LIMA 3883

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PE, TD (MRS. CARTER)

SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR MRS. CARTER'S VISIT: BIOGRAPHIC
SKETCHES OF FIVE KEY PERUVIAN LEADERS

REF: STATE 104923 NODIS

1. I AM FORWARDING HERewith MY IMPRESSIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS
OF THE KEY PERUVIAN LEADERS WITH WHOM MRS. CARTER MAY COME IN
CONTACT. I ASSUME INR/OIL WILL, AS IN THE PAST, MAKE FULL
USE OF THE REGULAR BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING PROVIDED BY THE EMBASSY
OVER THE YEARS.

2. IN PERSONAL CONTACTS PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ CONVEYS
THE IMPRESSION OF CORRECTNESS, INTEGRITY, HONESTY, AND
INTELLIGENCE. HE HAS A DEFINITE MILITARY BEARING, AND SPEAKS
FORCEFULLY AND DIRECTLY. HE CAN, HOWEVER, ENGAGE IN SMALL-TALK
AND HE HAS A READY SMILE AND A SIMPATICO PERSONALITY. HIS
STRONG BUT SOMETIMES SUBTLE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES ARE TEMPERED
BY A SINCERE AND APPEALING SYMPATHY FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED.
HE IDENTIFIES MORE WITH THE COMMON MAN, HIS PROBLEMS AND AS-
PIRATIONS, THAN MOST OF HIS MILITARY AND SOCIAL CLASS PEERS,
AND APPEARS TO BE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN INTEGRATING FORMERLY-
EXCLUDED PEOPLE, GROUPS, CLASSES AND CULTURES INTO THE MAINSTREAM
OF PERUVIAN NATIONAL LIFE. HE FEELS A SENTIMENTAL TIE TO
THE BEST ASPECTS OF THE SO-CALLED FIRST PHASE OF THE PERUVIAN

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REVOLUTION AND MIGHT ACCURATELY BE DESCRIBED AS A BRITISH-TYPE
SOCIALIST. HE DEPLORES THE ABUSE AND THE WASTE OF PERU'S
HUMAN RESOURCES THAT GOES ALONG WITH UNDERDEVELOPMENT.

2. THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH FAIRLY WELL AND OCCASIONALLY
BYPASSES THE ENGLISH TO SPANISH INTERPRETER IN CONVERSATION.
HE IS RELUCTANT TO SPEAK ENGLISH, HOWEVER. HIS MOST PRESSING

PRIVATE CONCERN IS HIS WIFE'S HEALTH ABOUT WHICH HE IS APPARENTLY VERY WORRIED. PERSONAL PROBLEMS FACING HIS GROWN CHILDREN ALSO CONCERN HIM. THE DEMANDS OF PUBLIC OFFICE CONFLICT WITH HIS NATURAL INSTINCTS TO PLAY THE PART OF A DEVOTED FATHER AND FAMILY MAN, BUT AT THE SAME TIME HIS SENSE OF DUTY TO BOTH THE NATION AND THE ARMED FORCES IMPELS HIM TO REMAIN THE THE PRESIDENCY UNTIL AN ORDERLY TRANSITION TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT CAN BE EFFECTED.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE DE LA PUENTE RADBILL, IN HIS CONTACTS WITH ME, HAS BEEN CLOSE, FRIENDLY AND GENERALLY COOPERATIVE. A SMOOTH, PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT, HE IS OUTGOING AND COMMUNICATIVE. HE SPEAKS SEVERAL LANGUAGES, INCLUDING ENGLISH AND FRENCH, EXTREMELY WELL. HE HAS SERVED AS PERU'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, AMBASSADOR TO THE SOVIET UNION, AS WELL AS CONSUL GENERAL IN LOS ANGELES, WHERE HIS MOTHER, A U.S. CITIZEN, STILL RESIDES. HE IS AN EXCELLENT, EVEN ELEGANT PUBLIC SPEAKER. HIS CAREER IN PERU'S FOREIGN SERVICE -- HE IS THE FIRST CAREER OFFICER TO RISE FROM THE RANKS TO MINISTER IN SOME 30 YEARS -- HAS BEEN BROAD BUT WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND HE HAS WORKED MOST CLOSELY WITH THE EMBASSY ON RESOLUTION OF MAJOR BILATERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS LIKE MARCONA AND GULF. HIS PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL INTERESTS ARE GLOBAL IN SCOPE, RATHER THAN LIMITED NARROWLY TO PERU. HE DOES HAVE, HOWEVER, A KEEN SENSE OF PERSONAL AND NATIONAL DIGNITY AND CAN BE PRICKLY AND NON-COMMUNICATIVE WHEN PROVOKED. TRIM, DAPPER, AND "TWEEDY", THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS AN EXPERIENCED HORSEMAN AND PRACTICES ONE OF THE MARTIAL ARTS TO KEEP TRIM AND IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION. HE AND HIS WIFE ARE ACCOMPLISHED

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HOSTS AND WILL CONVEY A SENSE OF WARM WELCOME.

4. PRIME MINISTER/MINISTER OF WAR GUILLERMO ARBULU IS STILL SOMEWHAT OF AN ENIGMA TO ME. HIS GREYING HAIR AND MUSTACHE, AND HIS STEEL BLUE EYES CONVEY A FATHERLY OR "DUTCH UNCLE" IMPRESSION. UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSORS, ARBULU DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE COMFORTABLE AS PRIME MINISTER AND IDENTIFIES MORE WITH THE WAR MINISTRY FACET OF HIS DUAL PORTFOLIO. HE SEEMS ILL AT EASE IN SOCIAL ENCOUNTERS (OUTSIDE OF HIS CIRCLE OF ARMY AND OTHER CLOSE ASSOCIATES) AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO ENJOY SMALL TALK OR THE EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES. HE IS NOT VERY FORTHCOMING IN THE DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, ALTHOUGH HE DOES SEEM TO HAVE A GROWING PERSONAL AWARENESS OF THE SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF PERU'S INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

5. MINISTER OF THE NAVY GUILLERMO PARODI'S NAVY BACKGROUND AND HIS ADEQUATE COMMAND OF ENGLISH WILL PROBABLY BE USED TO ADVANTAGE DURING MRS. CARTER'S VISIT. TALL, HANDSOME AND SMOOTH, HE IS VERY CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT AND QUITE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD

THE U.S., DESPITE OUR OWN INABILITY TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE PERUVIAN NAVY'S MATERIEL NEEDS. HE IS DYNAMIC, ENTHUSIASTIC AND, LIKE MOST SENIOR NAVY PERSONNEL, MORE ARISTOCRATIC IN BACKGROUND AND TASTE THAN THE AVERAGE PERUVIAN MILITARY OFFICER. PRIME MINISTER ARBULU IS A COUSIN OF HIS AND THROUGH MARRIAGE HE IS CONNECTED TO WEALTHY AND SOCIALLY PROMINENT FAMILIES IN LIMA.

5. AIR MINISTER DANTE POGGI, LIKE HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE ARMY AND NAVY MINISTRIES AND THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF, IS OF ITALIAN DESCENT. CONSIDERED MORE AMBITIOUS AND RUTHLESS THAN HIS CONFRERES, POGGI IS IDENTIFIED WITH WHAT IS KNOWN IN LIMA AS THE GOVERNMENT-ARMED FORCES "ITALIAN MAFIA". POGGI IS HEAVY-SET, FIRENDLY AND OPEN TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL, AND SYMPATHETIC TO THE U.S. WHERE HE RECEIVED HIS PILOT TRAINING. HE UNDERSTANDS SOME ENGLISH BUT NO LONGER SPEAKS THE LANGUAGE.

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